



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

**DECEMBER, 1938.**

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# Public Health Officers of the Authority.

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Dr. J. B. LOWE was Medical Officer of Health up to 31st May, 1938.

## **Medical Officer of Health:—**

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and to the Calne Borough.

Tel. : Chippenham 2435.

## **Senior Sanitary Inspector:—**

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.SAN.I., A.M.INST.S.E., who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

## **Additional Sanitary Inspectors, &c.:—**

G. E. WILLIAMS, CERT.S.I.B., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.  
H. J. TAYLOR, CERT.S.I.B., A.R.SAN.I.



# Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

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## Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1938.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.*

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I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ending December, 1938. I regret the report is not so complete as could be desired; but the many demands of National Service, have severely curtailed the activities of the Public Health Department.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers and Staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

### **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

|                                                               |     |     |     |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Areas (in acres)                                              | ... | ... | ... | 86,034  |
| Population (modified figure)                                  | ... | ... | ... | 18,670  |
| No. of inhabited houses (end of 1938 according to Rate Books) | ... | ... | ... | 5,527   |
| Rateable value (1st April, 1939)                              | ... | ... | ... | £81,199 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate                               | ... | ... | ... | £346    |

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove making in Corsham.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

### Live Births—

|              | Male            | Female          | Total           |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Legitimate   | 132             | 125             | 257             |
| Illegitimate | 7               | 3               | 10              |
|              | <hr/> 139 <hr/> | <hr/> 128 <hr/> | <hr/> 267 <hr/> |

|                          |     |               |
|--------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Birth Rate               | ... | 14.3 per 1000 |
| Birth Rate for E. and W. | ... | 15.1 per 1000 |

### Still Births—

|              | Male          | Female        | Total         |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Legitimate   | 3             | 2             | 5             |
| Illegitimate | 3             | —             | 3             |
|              | <hr/> 6 <hr/> | <hr/> 2 <hr/> | <hr/> 8 <hr/> |

|                            |     |               |
|----------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Rate per 1000 total births | ... | 29.9 per 1000 |
|----------------------------|-----|---------------|

### Deaths—

|                              |      |                                            |       |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| tns—                         | Male | Female                                     | Total |
|                              | 109  | 105                                        | 214   |
| Death Rate ...               | ...  | 11.4 per 1000                              |       |
| Death Rate for E. & W.       | ...  | 11.6 per 1000                              |       |
| Deaths from puerperal causes |      | { from sepsis—0.0<br>from other causes—2.0 |       |

### Deaths of Infants under one year—

|              | Male          | Female        | Total          |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Legitimate   | 5             | 5             | 10             |
| Illegitimate | —             | —             | —              |
|              | <hr/> 5 <hr/> | <hr/> 5 <hr/> | <hr/> 10 <hr/> |

### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

|                                                        |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|
| All Infants per 1000 Live Births                       | 37.4 |
| Death Rate for E. and W.                               | 53   |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births          | 38.9 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births | nil  |

## Deaths from all causes.

| Causes of Death                                   | Males      | Females    | Total      |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pneumonia (all forms) ...                         | 3          | 3          | 6          |
| Bronchitis ...                                    | 3          | 2          | 5          |
| Other respiratory diseases ...                    | 2          | 1          | 3          |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System                | 5          | 4          | 9          |
| Other Tuberculosis ...                            | —          | —          | —          |
| Cancer ...                                        | 12         | 17         | 29         |
| Syphilis ...                                      | 1          | —          | 1          |
| G.P.I., tabes, etc. ...                           | —          | —          | —          |
| Peptic Ulcer ...                                  | 1          | —          | 1          |
| Appendicitis ...                                  | —          | —          | —          |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ...                            | —          | 1          | 1          |
| Other Liver disease ...                           | —          | 1          | 1          |
| Aneurism ...                                      | 1          | —          | 1          |
| Other circulatory disease ...                     | 4          | 4          | 8          |
| Other digestive disease ...                       | 1          | 1          | 2          |
| Heart Disease ...                                 | 37         | 34         | 71         |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...                   | 4          | 7          | 11         |
| Puerperal Sepsis ...                              | —          | —          | —          |
| Other Puerperal disease ...                       | —          | 2          | 2          |
| Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, etc. ... | 2          | 3          | 5          |
| Senility ...                                      | 6          | 6          | 12         |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...                           | 4          | —          | 4          |
| Diabetes ...                                      | 3          | 3          | 6          |
| Suicide ...                                       | 1          | 1          | 2          |
| Other violence ...                                | 8          | 5          | 13         |
| Other defined diseases ...                        | 9          | 6          | 15         |
| Ill-defined or not known ...                      | —          | —          | —          |
| Diarrhœa, two years or over ...                   | —          | —          | —          |
| Diarrhœa, under two years ...                     | —          | 1          | 1          |
| Diphtheria ...                                    | —          | —          | —          |
| Influenza ...                                     | 1          | 1          | 2          |
| Whooping Cough ...                                | 1          | 1          | 2          |
| Measles ...                                       | —          | 1          | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL ...</b>                                  | <b>109</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>214</b> |

## School Closures during 1938.

| Name of School       |     | Period of Closure<br>(inclusive Dates) | Reason of<br>Closure |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| East Tytherton       | ... | 10/1/38—14/1/38                        | Chicken-pox          |
| Nettleton and Burton | ... | 10/2/38—24/2/38<br>1/3/38—4/3/38       | } Measles            |
| Stanton St. Quintin  | ... | 10/2/38—11/2/38                        |                      |
| West Kington         | ... | 16/3/38—1/4/38                         | Measles              |
| Yatesbury            | ... | 30/3/38—13/4/38                        | Measles              |
| Bremhill             | ... | 30/3/38—2/4/38                         | 'Flu                 |
| Yatton Keynell       | ... | 25/4/38—6/5/38                         | Measles              |
| Lacock               | ... | 10/5/38—27/5/38                        | Measles              |
| Biddestone           | ... | 25/7/38—28/7/38                        | Measles              |
| Calstone             | ... | 28/11/38—22/12/38                      | Whooping<br>Cough    |
| East Tytherton       | ... | 8/12/38—22/12/38                       | Whooping<br>Cough    |

## Number of Cases of Infectious Disease.

|               |     |     |    |
|---------------|-----|-----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | 17 |
| Diphtheria    | ... | ... | 5  |
| Pneumonia     | ... | ... | 12 |
| Erysipelas    | ... | ... | 5  |

## Tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

| Age<br>Periods | NEW CASES |     |               |     | DEATHS    |     |               |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|
|                | Pulmonary |     | Non-Pulmonary |     | Pulmonary |     | Non-Pulmonary |     |
|                | M.        | F.  | M.            | F.  | M.        | F.  | M.            | F.  |
| 0              | ...       | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 1              | ...       | ... | ...           | 1   | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 5              | ...       | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 10             | ...       | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 15             | ...       | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 20             | 1         | 1   | ...           | ... | 3         | 2   | 1             | ... |
| 25             | 2         | 2   | ...           | ... | 1         | 1   | ...           | ... |
| 35             | 2         | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | 1             | ... |
| 45             | ...       | 1   | ...           | ... | 1         | ... | ...           | ... |
| 55             | 1         | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| 65             | ...       | 1   | ...           | ... | ...       | 1   | ...           | ... |
| and<br>upwards | ...       | ... | ...           | ... | ...       | ... | ...           | ... |
| Totals         | 6         | 5   | ...           | 1   | 5         | 4   | 2             | ... |

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

### Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided at Salisbury Infirmary by the County Council and include examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.)

### Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Diseases. Chippenham Isolation Hospital garage their own ambulance adjoining the Hospital premises.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases, application should be made to :—The Matron, Cottage Hospital, Chippenham (Chippenham 2231) Borough of Chippenham Ambulance.

## **Nursing in the Home.**

(a) **General.** This service is provided by the District Nursing Associations.

(b) **Infectious Diseases.** The nurses of these Associations are not available for nursing infectious diseases as they also undertake midwifery. Where, however, nursing in the home is required and is not available, admission to the Isolation Hospital can often be obtained even when the case is not one of the ordinary notifiable infectious diseases.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

### **Venereal Disease Clinics.**

The Isolation Hospital, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Men. Wed. 6.30—8.0 p.m. Fri. 6.0—7.0 p.m.

Women. Mon. 5.0—6.30 p.m. Fri. 2.0—3.30 p.m.

County Council Clinic, The Halve, Trowbridge.

Men. Thurs. 5.30—6.30 p.m.

Women. Tues. 5.30—6.30 p.m.

### **Mental Clinics.**

- (1) At Trowbridge and District Hospital, Allcroft Street, held by Dr. Speer every Tuesday at 11.0 a.m.
- (2) At Victoria Hospital, Swindon, held by Dr. Leech every Monday at 2.30 p.m.

### **Orthopædic Clinic.**

Held at Corsham Nursing Home on Wednesday mornings. This is a voluntary organisation, but the services of the Surgeon and specially trained Sister are provided by the County Council.

### **Infant Welfare Clinic.**

At Corsham Nursing Home on the 2nd Friday afternoon of each month.

### **Tuberculosis Dispensaries (Wilts C.C.)**

- (1) At the Halve, Trowbridge, every Wednesday from 10 to 1.
- (2) At 15, Milton Road, Swindon, every Thursday.

### **Eye Clinic.**

Available for all Elementary and Secondary School Children and for many children under school age, this is held at the Church Hall, Chippenham.

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.**

This is held on Tuesday at the Halve, Trowbridge. It is available for children as in the case of eye defects. An appointment is required.

### **Heart Clinics.**

These are arranged for school children at the Public Assistance Institution when sufficient cases have been collected.

### **Cancer.**

In co-operation with the Radium Centre at the General Hospital, Bristol, the County Council hold Clinics at

- (i) The Halve, Trowbridge at 11.30 a.m. every third Thursday.
- (ii) Swindon Victoria Hospital at 11 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

The function of these clinics is two-fold. In the first place for the selection of new cases suitable for treatment by Radium or Deep X-ray Therapy. This treatment is carried out at the Radium Centre at the Bristol General Hospital. In the second place they are the means by which cases which have received this treatment may be followed up and kept under observation by the Radium Officer from Bristol.

### **Hospitals.**

This Authority is one of those forming the Calne and Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital. The number of beds provided is 27.

## **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**

No Tuberculous persons to my knowledge were employed in the milk trade.

It has not been considered advisable to exercise the powers given under Section 62 Public Health Act, 1925, for the removal to hospital or sanatorium of tuberculous persons.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

### **Water Supplies.**

#### **Box, Corsham and Colerne Main Supplies.**

The dry period during the early months of the year seriously affected the springs at Hungerford Wood and at the latter part of the year the consumption exceeded the yield.

The innovation of the V-notch gauging chamber at Widdenham is invaluable. Readings are taken weekly and thus a continuous record can be kept, which has and will continue to be of considerable importance in sundry ways.

The old Box Spring was utilised to augment this supply, but when the main springs became copious again, this was discontinued, but it can be introduced at any time when the necessity arises.

The performance of the pumping plant still continues to be satisfactory, although the time is approaching when a longer period of rest for the respective engines should be allowed, so that more mechanical attention can be given to the Plant. With the increasing demand upon the supply and the frequency of repairs and renewals, circumstances may be thus whereby the installation of auxiliary plant will become a necessity. In this respect alterations were effected in the previous year, so as to make it practicable for the 22 h.p. Engine in the Colerne Pumping Station, situated at Widdenham, to lift water to Rudloe in an emergency.

As a precautionary measure, this supply has now been chlorinated and for that purpose the following appliances have been provided :—

### **Box and Corsham Supply—Type M.S.P.M. Chlorinator.**

The pressure of the Chlorine gas coming from the cylinder is reduced and stabilised and then measured by a volumetric meter. A minor flow of water under pressure passes through an injector and produces a vacuum at the throat. The measured Chlorine, together with make up water, is drawn into the throat, mixes with the operating water to produce a balanced Chlorine solution, and this solution is then applied into either or both of the pump suctions. Control is obtained by means of a special two-way split feed device.

Based on the estimated pumpage rate of 6,000 g.p.h. from each pump, a dose of 0·3 p.p.m.  $\text{Cl}_2$  is required to give a Chlorine residual of 0·15 p.p.m. after 10 minutes contact.

This residual can be determined by means of a Hellige type Orthotolidine testing outfit.

### **Colerne Supply.**

Owing to the relatively small quantity of water to be treated it was decided to instal a Hypochlorinator.

This machine consists essentially of a diaphragm pump (constructed of corrosion resistant material) for measuring and delivering Sodium Hypochlorite solution into the suction pipe of the pump, and is operated by water pressure taken from the first stage of the pump.

Treatment can be controlled by (1) the speed of pumping and (2) adjusting the strength of the Hypochlorite solution ; the residual or free Chlorine in the treated water also being determined by means of the Hellige type Comparator.

Only a part of Corsham depends upon this source of supply, the remaining part being served by the Corsham Water Company.

**Box (Washwell).**

This supply remained copious throughout the year and it did not require any special attention. It is connected with the Rudloe-Kingsdown main, so that it can be augmented during periods of drought. The supply gravitates from a reservoir at Washwell to the village.

**Box (Townsend).**

Another subsidiary and piped supply, which remained constant during the year. This can also be augmented by the Rudloe—Kingsdown main.

**Box (Middle Hill).**

This is a piped supply and no difficulty was experienced with the water supply in this area during the year.

**Ditteridge.**

This is a well supply, the water being raised to an elevated reservoir for distribution. It became intermittent for a short period, owing to the yield of the well becoming very limited. Consideration is being given to the augmentation of this small supply by extending the main from Middle Hill and so supplementing it from the Widdenham supply. The supply, however, at the present time, is constant and sufficient.

**Colerne.**

The village depends upon the Widdenham source of supply, which has served the parish satisfactorily for approximately three years. The supply is served mainly by standpipes, but 54 properties have been connected directly with the main up to the end of this year and applications are still being made. Every application has to be thoroughly investigated by the Medical Officer of Health to ensure that the existing sanitary accommodation is adequate and sufficient to dispose of any additional waste water.

### **Biddestone.**

The village is supplied with water from the Hartham Estate, the Council purchasing water in bulk. The supply was well maintained throughout the year.

The hamlet of Slaughterford in this Parish, has been dependent upon two sources of supply, the original source emanating from springs at Colerne Down Farm and the other, which was incorporated into this supply during 1935, from springs at the Slaughterford Paper Mills.

A bacteriological examination of the former supply was unsatisfactory and it has been decided to disconnect that from the reservoir and to utilise the Mill supply only, since it has been ascertained that during the drought of the year under review, it was sufficient to satisfy the demand of this hamlet.

### **Bremhill—Foxham and Tytherton.**

These villages have separate sources of supply, both being by gravitation.

They usually give cause for anxiety during some part of the year, owing to an insufficient yield of the respective springs and the supplies have to be conserved by affording a supply intermittently.

Both villages will be served with the Regional Water Scheme, thus these recurring anxieties will be eradicated and the consumers in these districts will be able to enjoy a constant service of water supply.

## **Regional Scheme.**

The Ministry of Health has now approved of this Scheme, which has been designed to enable an adequate supply of water to be afforded to the following Parishes :—

Bremhill (part of),  
 Castle Combe,  
 Christian Malford,  
 Grittleton,  
 Kington Langley,  
 Kington St. Michael,  
 Sutton Benger,  
 Yatton Keynell.

Since the Ministry of Health Enquiry, Nettleton (part of) and Stanton St. Quintin have been included in the Scheme.

The total estimated cost of the works, including the additions is £43,000.

## **Calne Without.**

This district is partially served by the main of the Calne Water Company Ltd. Apart from this, the supplies are by individual wells and springs.

## **Castle Combe.**

The village has a public pump supply, as well as individual wells.

### **Cherhill.**

The only public supply is that of the Compton Bassett Estate Water Supply Company, which serves only parts of the Parish. Other properties not so served have to rely upon wells, including the village of Yatesbury, where the wells become devoid of water during periods of drought. Consideration is being given to a piped supply from a private source.

### **Chippenham Without.**

With a few exceptions, the Parish enjoys the supply of the Chippenham Borough Council.

### **Christian Malford.**

A small area is served by the Dauntsey Water Company, which cannot be regarded as being entirely satisfactory. With this exception, the supplies are by individual wells.

### **Compton Bassett.**

The Parish generally has to rely upon individual wells.

### **Grittleton.**

The Grittleton Estate provides certain properties with a piped supply, while those not connected therewith are supplied by individual wells.

### **Heddington.**

This district is dependent upon individual wells.

### **Hilmarton.**

A piped supply is existing in this Parish and it is afforded by the Hilmarton Water Company.

### **Kington Langley and Kington St. Michael.**

Both Parishes are served by water mains, the water gravitating from an elevated reservoir at Yewstock, which is supplied with water by the Chippenham Borough Council.

**Lacock.**

The Corsham Water Company provide a piped supply to this Parish, the water gravitating from a reservoir at Lockswell.

**Langley Burrell Without.**

This Parish is also served with the Chippenham Borough Council's water supply.

**Nettleton.**

Except for a very small portion of the Parish, which is served by a supply from the West Gloucester Water Company, the village relies upon individual wells.

**North Wraxall.**

The main sources of supply are from individual wells and springs.

**Pewsham.**

A part of the Parish is supplied with water from the main of the Chippenham Borough Council, while another part is supplied from a reservoir, situated at Derry Hill on the Bowood Estate.

**Stanton St. Quintin, Sutton Benger and Yatton  
Keynell.**

These villages are entirely dependent upon individual well supplies.

### Number of Private Water Samples Submitted for Analysis and Results.

| Parish                            | Source      | Fit | Unfit | Sus-<br>pect | Number of<br>Properties |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----|-------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Bremhill ...                      | 2 Wells     | 1   | 1     | —            | 2                       |
| Lacock ...                        | 2 Res'voirs | 1   | 1     | —            | 2                       |
|                                   | 2 Wells     | —   | 2     | —            | 2                       |
|                                   | 1 Spring    | 1   | —     | —            | —                       |
| Langley<br>Burrell<br>Without ... | 1 Well      | —   | —     | 1            | 1                       |
| Stanton St.<br>Quinton ...        | 4 Wells     | —   | 4     | —            | 7                       |
|                                   |             | 3   | 8     | 1            |                         |

All samples for Bacteriological Examination and Chemical Analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

## Number of Public Water Samples Submitted for Analysis and Results.

| Parish                                             | Source                                | Fit | Unfit | Sus-<br>pect |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-------|--------------|
| Biddestone                                         |                                       |     |       |              |
| Slaughterford ...                                  | Springs (Mill supply)                 | —   | 1     | 4            |
| Estate Supply ...                                  | Springs (Col.<br>Nicholson's Supply)  | 1   | —     | —            |
| Box                                                |                                       |     |       |              |
| Alcombe ...                                        | Well                                  | —   | —     | 1            |
| Ditteridge ...                                     | Well                                  | —   | 1     | —            |
| Townsend ...                                       | Spring                                | —   | —     | 1            |
| Box, Corsham and<br>Colerne ...                    | Hungerford Wood<br>Springs            | 6   | —     | 7            |
| Bremhill                                           |                                       |     |       |              |
| Foxham ...                                         | Well and Springs at<br>Stockham Marsh | —   | 1     | 2            |
| Tytherton ...                                      | Springs, Wick Hill                    | —   | —     | 2            |
| Christian Malford<br>Dauntsey Water<br>Company ... | Springs at Bradenstoke                | —   | 1     | —            |
| Corsham<br>Water Company                           | Springs at Lockswell                  | 4   | —     | —            |
| Corsham and Lacock                                 | Springs at Lockswell                  | —   | —     | 1            |
| Hilmarton<br>Water Company                         | Gathering Ground,<br>Catcombe         | 1   | —     | —            |
| North Wraxall<br>Ford ...                          | Springs                               | 1   | 1     | —            |
| Pewsham ...                                        | Springs, Derry Hill                   | —   | —     | 1            |
|                                                    |                                       | 13  | 5     | 19           |

## Number of Council House Water Samples Submitted for Analysis and Results.

| Parish        | Source   | Fit | Unfit | Sus-<br>pect |
|---------------|----------|-----|-------|--------------|
| Charlcutt ... | Well     | —   | 1     | —            |
| Hilmarton ... | Borehole | 1   | —     | —            |
|               |          | 1   | 1     | —            |

## New Water Services.

Total number of premises connected to the Council's mains during the year 1938 :—

### *Parish.*

|                        |     |    |
|------------------------|-----|----|
| Biddestone ...         | ... | 1  |
| Box ...                | ... | 30 |
| Bremhill ...           | ... | 3  |
| Chippenham Without ... | ... | 2  |
| Colerne ...            | ... | 6  |
| Corsham ...            | ... | 26 |
| Kington Langley ...    | ... | 3  |
| Pewsham ...            | ... | 1  |
|                        |     | 72 |

**Water Supplies Data.**

| Reservoirs                            |     | Capacity<br>Gallons |        |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|--------|
| Existing reservoir at Widdenham       | ... | 30,000              |        |
| Reconstructed reservoir at ditto      | ... | 9,000               |        |
| New reservoir at ditto                | ... | 40,500              |        |
|                                       |     |                     | 79,500 |
| Elevated reservoir at Colerne         | ... | 20,000              |        |
| High level tank at Rudloe (Box)       | ... | 28,800              |        |
| 2 low level tanks at Rudloe (Corsham) | ... | 42,000              |        |
| Old reservoir at Kingsdown            | ... | 8,500               |        |
| New reservoir at Kingsdown            | ... | 10,400              |        |
|                                       |     |                     | 18,900 |
| Break pressure reservoir at Kingsdown | ... | 2,500               |        |
| Reservoir at Middlehill               |     | 6,000               |        |
| „ „ Ditteridge                        |     | 7,350               |        |
| „ „ Washwell                          |     | 16,500              |        |
| „ „ Yewstock                          |     | 13,400              |        |
| „ „ Foxham (large)                    |     | 20,050              |        |
| „ „ „ (small)                         |     | 2,625               |        |
|                                       |     |                     | 22,675 |
| „ „ Tytherton (large)                 |     | 21,250              |        |
| „ „ „ (small)                         | ... | 2,131               |        |
| „ „ „ (Fry's)                         |     | 2,200               |        |
|                                       |     |                     | 25,581 |

**Widdenham Pumping Station.**

| Engines                                       |     |          | Pumps                                   |                             |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
|                                               | No. | B. H. P. |                                         | Delivery                    | No. |
| <i>Box and Corsham Supplies.</i>              |     |          |                                         |                             |     |
| Ruston & Hornsby<br>Horizontal Crude<br>Oil   | 2   | 28       | Harland 8-stage<br>centrifugal<br>pumps | 6,000<br>Galls.<br>per hour | 2   |
| <i>Colerne Supply.</i>                        |     |          |                                         |                             |     |
| Ruston & Hornsby<br>Horizontal Crude<br>Oil   | 1   | 22       | Harland 12-stage<br>centrifugal<br>pump | 4,020<br>Galls.<br>per hour | 1   |
| Auxiliary engine<br>Lister vertical<br>engine | 1   | 8        | Harland 7-stage<br>centrifugal<br>pump  | 4,020<br>Galls.<br>per hour | 1   |

## Details of Water Mains.

### Lengths in Miles.

|               | 6"  | 5"   | 4"    | 3"   | 2½"  | 2"   | 1½"  | 1"   | ¾"  | Total<br>all sizes |
|---------------|-----|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|--------------------|
| Box ...       |     | 1.06 | 3.57  | 1.31 | .56  | 1.24 | 1.3  | 1.26 | .32 | 10.62              |
| Bremhill ...  |     | —    | —     | .25  | 1.9  | —    | 1.55 | —    | —   | 3.7                |
| Chipp. Wt.    |     | —    | —     | .75  | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | .75                |
| Colerne ...   |     | —    | 1.39  | .68  | —    | .67  | —    | —    | —   | 2.74               |
| Corsham ...   |     | 1.51 | 4.41  | 2.61 | —    | —    | 1.7  | —    | —   | 10.23              |
| K. Langley    | .17 | —    | .44   | .87  | —    | 1.15 | —    | —    | —   | 2.63               |
| K. St. Mich.  |     | —    | .74   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | .74                |
| Lgly. Bl. Wt. | .64 | —    | —     | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | .64                |
| Pewsham ...   |     | —    | —     | .36  | —    | —    | .68  | .06  | —   | 1.10               |
|               | .81 | 2.57 | 10.55 | 6.83 | 2.46 | 3.06 | 5.23 | 1.32 | .32 | 33.15              |

## Daily Consumption.

*Average Daily Consumption :*

|                                                            | 1937   | 1938          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Box (excluding supply from Washwell<br>and Ditteridge) ... | 22,757 | 24,798 galls. |
| Colerne ...                                                | 3,830  | 2,975 „       |
| Corsham ...                                                | 19,313 | 23,480 „      |
| Kington Langley ...                                        | 10,340 | 8,815 „       |
| Kington St. Michael ...                                    | 4,225  | 3,999 „       |
| Neston ...                                                 | 23,599 | 28,744 „      |

## **Sewerage and Drainage.**

### **Biddestone.**

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this Parish, a part being laid with pipes, while another section comprises a stone drock. The sewer receives crude slop-water drainage and the overflows of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer, and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, effluvia nuisances arise and complaints are manifold. Hence the existing method of sewage disposal cannot be regarded as being satisfactory. A proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is inevitable.

### **Box (Main Sewer Outfall).**

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane from which the effluent overflows into a system of channels for irrigation, before reception in the adjoining Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration, cleansing, etc., of the channels, while others are in use. Having regard to the fact that the works do not conform with the modern practice of sanitary engineering, it is noteworthy that the year passed without any complaint being received. The Analyst reports the sample of effluent taken to be of bad quality.

Consideration was given to the temporary provision of Detritus and Settlement Tanks, but it was found that this would not be an economical proposition, having regard to the ultimate construction of proper disposal works at a higher level, owing to the present site being very low, and so necessitating the lifting of the sewage for purification.

### **Box (Middle Hill Works).**

These comprise a settlement tank, succeeded by a filter bed composed of slag media, the effluent being distributed thereon by means of a double-acting tipper, serving a series of perforated iron channels.

The works deal with a weak sewage as compared with the other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

A sample of the effluent taken during the year was reported by the Analyst to be of fairly good quality. The filtered effluent is absorbed before it reaches the brook.

### **Box (Council Houses, The Ley).**

These works continue to give satisfactory results and pollution of the stream is not apparent.

**Bremhill, Calne Without, Cherhill, Chippenham Without, Christian Malford, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Langley Burrell Without, Nettleton and North Wrexall.**

There is no sewerage system of any description in these Parishes, so that the larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations, while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water on the garden.

### **Castle Combe.**

A proper sewerage system does not exist in this Parish. The closet accommodation is of the conservancy system, while the major portion of the houses have slop water drains discharging into the stream. An investigation was recently made by the Wilts County Council respecting River Pollution and while a sample of the effluent obtained from the outfall pipe proved to be unsatisfactory, it was considered that at the moment the pollution was not very serious. It was therefore decided to defer taking any action, especially so as a water scheme is in progress for this district and a sewerage scheme would probably follow.

## Golerne.

A summary of the existing sewerage system is as follows :—

A sewer is laid down Church Lane and continues along the lane to the top of Watergates, where it discharges into a tank situated on private land. This acts as a settlement tank only and the overflow therefrom is conducted by another sewer to a field (sometimes used for grazing cows) in the lower part of Watergates for broad irrigation. The outfall is preceded by a very small tank for further settlement. The irrigation is not very thorough and ponding occurs, so that the Owner of the field is not unreasonable when he complains of these conditions, and, indeed, one can sympathise with him, when it is recalled that it is incumbent upon him to ensure a clean milk supply. A clean cow is equally important to a clean cowshed and dairy. It is therefore discouraging to a farmer, if he complies with the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, to find that his stock is continually exposed to contamination from sewage effluent.

Another independent sewer exists at Tutton Hill, the sewage from which is discharged into an open ditch and is definitely crude, containing "soil" as well as slop water drainage. There is no provision made of any description for settlement or any other treatment, hence the insanitary conditions at the outfall are acute.

At Washmere there is a service water drain, and since local residents dispose of slop-water in the road gully, insanitary conditions exist.

The prevailing closet accommodation is that of the pail system and it is a common practice for householders to make a compost of the pail contents and ashes, and remove same to their allotments at a remote distance from their houses. Furthermore, a common method is to use swallow-holes or fissures in the rocks to dispose of slop-water, its ultimate disposal being unknown.

The Council are fully aware of these insanitary conditions and have instructed Consulting Engineers to prepare a Scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for this Parish.

### **Corsham (Low and High Level Works).**

These obsolete works will soon be able to be abandoned and demolished, as the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme is now in active progress.

Briefly, the new Scheme provides for the construction of entirely new disposal works on and adjoining the site of the Lower Outfalls, the extension and renewal of the sewerage systems at Velly Hill, Coppershell, Potley Lane, Moor Green, Pool Green, Elley Green, Corshamside and its locality, as well as the reconstruction of certain lengths of existing sewers in the urban portion of Corsham. The total cost of all the work to be executed is approximately £27,000.

Despite the inadequacy of the existing works to effectually deal with the sewage and the fact that the irrigation areas must be "sewage sick," it is surprising that a sample of the effluent taken from the High Level Works is reported upon by the Analyst to be even fair. Nitration, however, is almost negligible. Furthermore, an analysis of a sample of raw sewage taken from these works on the 29th June, revealed that the result was not unfavourable for a raw sewage.

### **Corsham (Council Houses, Potley Lane).**

Two disposal works serve these 46 houses. They have never functioned satisfactorily, and the effluent has always been a bad one and greatly in excess of the permissible standards for dissolved oxygen absorbed and suspended solids.

The advent of the new Sewerage Scheme, to which the drainage systems from these houses will be connected, can be regarded as being of the utmost necessity.

### **Corsham (Council Houses, Gastard).**

A small disposal system serves these houses. It was re-designed about six years ago and has functioned satisfactorily. The effluent is filtered and drains into the old sewer in Velley Hill. The works will be dismantled when the sewer is relaid and the drainage systems connected to the latter.

### **Grittleton.**

There is no proper system of sewerage in this Parish, although there are one or two lengths of drains which act as sewers and receive slop-water only from those properties connected to them. The larger houses have cesspools or septic tanks, while the houses which are not so provided have to use earth closets.

### **Kington Langley.**

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field. This seldom causes any trouble.

There are one or two ditches into which overflows from cesspools, etc., discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Local Authority.

### **Kington St. Michael.**

This Parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, while the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition.

A strong protest has been received from the Owner of the land to the Lower Outfall and the Council have given instructions to their Consulting Engineers to prepare a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for this Parish.

An extract from the data prepared, when a survey was made as to the existing sanitary circumstances, is as follows :

|                                                                                        |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Number of properties which are at present or could be drained into the existing sewers | ... | 99  |
| Population of these properties                                                         | ... | 307 |
| Number of properties connected to the sewers                                           | ... | 92  |
| Population of properties connected to sewers                                           | ... | 280 |
| Number of Water Closets draining into sewers                                           | ... | 63  |
| Number of gullies, baths, wash basins, etc. draining into sewers                       | ... | 118 |
| Number of Earth Closets                                                                | ... | 46  |
| Number of Cesspools                                                                    | ... | 5   |
| Number of properties connected to Council's Water Main                                 | ... | 86  |

#### Lacock.

The main sewage disposal works comprise :

Detritus Tank  
Settlement Tanks (two)  
Storm overflow Tank  
Two Rotary Sprinklers with slag media filter beds  
Common Humus Tank and sludge beds

Part of the sewage is pumped, while the rest is by gravitation.

The Bewley Lane Outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels, which are used alternatively.

The following is a Report by the County Medical Officer of Health upon both sewage disposal works :

(a) **Main Works.** These works are well cared for and the filters are in a satisfactory condition. A baffle placed at the exit from the humus tank has appreciably diminished the humus. The river showed no signs of pollution and the Analyst reports the sample taken to be that of a good effluent.

(b) **Bewley Lane.** These works were satisfactory and the irrigation land was absorbing all the effluent.

**Pewsham, Stanton St. Quintin, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell.**

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four Parishes. Each Parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which, in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing more or less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these Parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

**Rivers and Streams.**

There was no specific case in which it was considered necessary to take any action to check the pollution of any river or stream.

**Closest Accommodation.**

|                                             |     |    |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Conversion of privy vaults to earth closets | ... | 20 |
| „ „ „ water closets                         | ... | —  |
| „ earth closets to water closets            | ... | 1  |
| New earth closets                           | ... | 9  |
| New water closets                           | ... | 72 |

**Public Cleansing.**

This essential service of Public Health administration, which was originally undertaken by several individual Contractors, is now under the control of one Contractor.

The household refuse is now collected in a properly designed Scavenging Vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the urban or rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The only Parishes from which refuse is not collected by the Council are Castle Combe, Grittleton, Nettleton, Stanton St. Quintin and Sutton Benger, but it is anticipated that the latter Parish will be included in the area of collection during 1939.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like, are used for the deposition of refuse. The tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of new tips provides an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be adopted. This has already been put into operation on one new tip and so far the controlled system has been successful. The old tips are baited and raided to combat any rat infestation.

The roadside waste at Sutton Benger is no longer capable of being utilised for disposal of refuse. This has served as a very useful tip for many years, although its position did not commend it as being an entirely suitable dump, but the failure to acquire a remote site enforced its use. Negotiations, however, have been satisfactorily concluded with an Owner of a local gravel pit, whereby the Council are enabled to deposit refuse in the disused parts of the pit. In consequence of this, a refuse collection scheme will be promoted for the Parish of Sutton Benger. The roadside tip is therefore being effectually covered and abandoned.

## **Offensive Trades.**

The only trade in this district which might be designated under this heading is that of fish frying and the premises concerned are in the minority. Complaints were not received during the year respecting such premises, which is significant of their satisfactory control and maintenance.

## **Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1923.**

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

## Rat and Mice (Destruction) Acts.

Investigations are made, when complaints are addressed to the Sanitary Department of this Authority regarding rat infestation and suggestions are offered as to the most suitable bait to use and the methods to adopt. The obligation, however, is upon the occupier, to rid his premises of rats and due notice can be served upon him under the Acts for this purpose.

During the year under review, the refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison, while the National Rat Week is supported by more extensive baiting and also by employing the sulphur dioxide method for rat extermination.

## Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

| Premises<br>(1)                                                                                                                                        | Number of               |                           |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                        | Inspect-<br>ions<br>(2) | Written<br>Notices<br>(3) | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted<br>(4) |
| <b>Factories</b> with mechanical power                                                                                                                 | 12                      | 1                         | —                              |
| <b>Factories</b> without mechanical power                                                                                                              | —                       | —                         | —                              |
| † <b>Other Premises</b> under the Act<br>(including works of building and<br>engineering construction but not in-<br>cluding outworkers' premises) ... | 2                       | —                         | —                              |
| † Electrical Stations should<br>be reckoned as factories <b>Total</b> ....                                                                             | 14                      | 1                         | —                              |

**2. Defects found.**

| Particulars<br><br>(1)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Number of Defects |                     |                                       | Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted<br><br>(5) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Found<br><br>(2)  | Remedied<br><br>(3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector<br><br>(4) |                                                                               |
| Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                     |                                       |                                                                               |
| Insufficient ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1                 | 1                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Unsuitable or defective                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5                 | 4                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Not separate for sexes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Other offences ...<br>(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) | —                 | —                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 6                 | 5                   | —                                     | —                                                                             |

Except for stone quarrying at Box and Corsham and glove making at Corsham, the chief occupation of the inhabitants of this district is agriculture, hence the premises which are controlled by the Factory and Workshops Act are few and the number of inspections correspondingly low.

## Housing.

The information regarding Housing Statistics is set out to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

|                                                                                                                                                                       | 1937 | 1938 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| <b>1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :</b>                                                                                                             |      |      |
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...                                                       | 178  | 148  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose                                                                                                                        | 807  | 877  |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... | 149  | 138  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose                                                                                                                        | 753  | 857  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...                                      | 7    | 10   |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...   | 171  | 128  |
| <b>2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :</b>                                                                                       |      |      |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...                                       | 42   | 87   |
| <b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :</b>                                                                                                             |      |      |
| (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                                                                                                |      |      |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...                                                                           | 31   | 41   |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :                                                                               |      |      |

|                                                                                                                                                         |     |     | 1937 | 1938 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|------|
| (a) By owners                                                                                                                                           | ... | ... | 7    | 12   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners                                                                                                             | ... | ... | —    | —    |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :                                                                                                              |     |     |      |      |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied                                                  | ... | ... | 29   | 1    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                                                          |     |     |      |      |
| (a) By owners                                                                                                                                           | ... | ... | —    | 1    |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners                                                                                                             | ... | ... | —    | —    |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                                                                                     |     |     |      |      |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made                                                                           | ... | ... | 8    | 1    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders                                                                              | ... | ... | —    | 7    |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                                                                                             |     |     |      |      |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made                                                      | ... | ... | —    | 1    |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | —    | —    |

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding.

|                                                                |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | 77  | 52  |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein                        | ... | ... | 78  | 52  |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein                         | ... | ... | 470 | 318 |

|                                                                                                                                                                  | 1937 | 1938 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...                                                                                             | 2    | 25   |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...                                                                                             | 8    | 50   |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...                                                                                                                | 63   | 320  |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | —    | —    |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. ...              | —    | —    |

## Housing Resumé.

The routine inspection of houses, as required by the Housing Act, was unavoidably impeded, by reason of emergency work during the crisis period in the Autumn.

It is interesting to record that several properties included in the foregoing statistics were considered for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and many houses have been saved from demolition by the financial assistance afforded under these Acts. It is very desirable to obviate demolition of Old Cottages, as they mainly contribute to the architectural features of sylvan England, and in schemes for the reconditioning of Cottages, the particular period of architecture, which may exist in the Cottage or Cottages to be reconditioned, is preserved as much as possible where it is practicable.

Periodic surveys by Owners of their respective houses, and the subsequent repair of minor defects existing, would tend to obviate or mitigate the formidable schedule of repairs sent to them for execution in accordance with the Housing Acts. Annual maintenance of houses would also assuredly avoid the risk of demolition.

The total number of houses which have been re-conditioned in this district under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts to the 31st December, 1938, is 43.

### **Council Houses.**

The Council has built 214 houses, situated in the following Parishes :—

| Parish                   | No.   |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Biddestone ... ..        | 2     |
| Box ... ..               | 30    |
| Bremhill ... ..          | 7     |
| Calne Without ... ..     | 20    |
| Cherhill ... ..          | 18    |
| Christian Malford ... .. | 10    |
| Compton Bassett ... ..   | 4     |
| Corsham ... ..           | 68    |
| Heddington ... ..        | 6     |
| Hilmarton ... ..         | 6     |
| Kington Langley ... ..   | 12    |
| Lacock ... ..            | 18    |
| Nettleton ... ..         | 2     |
| Sutton Benger ... ..     | 11    |
|                          | <hr/> |
|                          | 214   |
|                          | <hr/> |

The execution of repairs to Council Houses, although not so extensive as heretofore, were somewhat more numerous than in the previous year. This applies particularly to the older Council Houses, where sundry repairs will tend to become more frequent.

It was, as in the previous year, unnecessary to reconstruct or carry out any extensive works to the drainage disposal systems at any of the housing sites. Reference may here be made to the fact that the three disposal systems at Potley Lane and Gastard Housing Sites will be abandoned on the completion of the Corsham Sewerage Scheme, as these houses will be connected to the new system.

External painting was not required to any of the houses during the year.

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## **Rent and Mortgage Interest**

### **Restrictions Act, 1923.**

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

### **New Buildings, etc.**

Fifty-seven new dwellings were erected by private enterprise during the year, in addition to other miscellaneous buildings and additions, which were distributed amongst the various parishes as follows:—

| Parish                 |     | New Dwelling<br>houses | Alterations<br>and additions<br>to existing<br>houses | Garages        | Miscel-<br>laneous |
|------------------------|-----|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Biddestone             | ... | —                      | 1                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Box                    | ... | 9                      | 6                                                     | 3              | 4                  |
| Bremhill               | ... | —                      | 1                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Calne Without          | ... | —                      | 5                                                     | —              | 1                  |
| Castle Combe           | ... | —                      | —                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Cherhill               | ... | —                      | —                                                     | —              | 1                  |
| Chippenham Without     |     | 3                      | —                                                     | —              | 2                  |
| Christian Malford      |     | 1                      | —                                                     | 1              | 1                  |
| Colerne                | ... | 2                      | 4                                                     | 1              | 3                  |
| Compton Bassett        | ... | —                      | —                                                     | 1              | 2                  |
| Corsham                | ... | 34                     | 7                                                     | 10             | 13                 |
| Grittleton             | ... | —                      | —                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Heddington             | ... | —                      | —                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Hilmarton              | ... | —                      | —                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Kington Langley        | ... | 5                      | 2                                                     | 2              | 2                  |
| Kington St. Michael    |     | —                      | —                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Lacock                 | ... | 2                      | 1                                                     | 1              | 31                 |
| Langley Burrell With't |     | —                      | 1                                                     | —              | 6                  |
| Nettleton              | ... | —                      | 2                                                     | 1              | 3                  |
| North Wraxall          | ..  | 1                      | 2                                                     | 1              | —                  |
| Pewsham                | ... | —                      | —                                                     | 1              | 1                  |
| Stanton St. Quintin    |     | —                      | —                                                     | 15             | 3                  |
| Sutton Benger          | ... | —                      | 2                                                     | —              | —                  |
| Yatton Keynell         | ... | —                      | 1                                                     | —              | 1                  |
|                        |     | <hr/> 57 <hr/>         | <hr/> 35 <hr/>                                        | <hr/> 37 <hr/> | <hr/> 74 <hr/>     |

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### Milk Supply.

|                             | 1937 | 1938 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Number of farms on register | 516  | 505  |

### Summary of work carried out.

|                                                             |     |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Total number of farms inspected during the year             | 88  | 56  |
| Farms requiring structural alterations, cleansing, etc.     | 78  | 32  |
| Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed | 73  | 60  |
| Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition               | 10  | 24  |
| Total number of inspections                                 | 357 | 258 |

The occurrence of Foot and Mouth Disease during the year was responsible for the suspension of Farm inspections for two or three months.

The general condition of Cowsheds and Dairies is attaining a better standard from year to year. Evidence of this is exemplified by those producers who have been registered as Accredited Milk Producers and the hope is expressed that Producers who are not so designated will soon be in the minority.

In comparing the number of Farms inspected annually with the number of premises found to be in a satisfactory condition, it is regrettable that the percentage of the latter is small. Reference may well be made again to the fact that while buildings should not be an obstacle to the production of a clean milk supply, they are really of secondary importance. Paramount to this is the adoption of methods—proper and cleanly processes of milking, cooling and filling of churns, cleansing of the udders, milking stools and the thorough sterilization of all utensils. The Order of 1926 is a most useful guide respecting such matters.

It will not be amiss to reiterate the hope that future legislation will be of such a character as to remove conflicting interpretations of the existing order, thus ensuring uniformity of action. At the moment, diversity of opinion exists among Authorities as to the correct interpretation of some of the sections.

### **Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.**

The following are now the Special Designations for milk :—

Tuberculin Tested  
Accredited  
Pasteurised

Samples of Designated Milk were previously taken by this Authority, but since the 1st January, 1937, the samples have been taken by Officials of the Wilts County Council, on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

### **Slaughter-houses.**

The number of such premises are as follows:—6 Registered and 5 Licensed, totalling 11.

| Parish            |     | Registered | Licensed |
|-------------------|-----|------------|----------|
| Box               | ... | 1          | —        |
| Calne Without     | ... | —          | 1        |
| Colerne           | ... | —          | 1        |
| Corsham           | ... | 3          | —        |
| Grittleton        | ... | 1          | 1        |
| Heddington        |     |            |          |
| (Slaughter-house) |     | —          | 1        |
| Heddington        |     |            |          |
| (Knacker's Yard)  |     | —          | 1        |
| Lacock            | ... | 1          | —        |
|                   |     | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
| Total             | ... | 6          | 5        |
|                   |     | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |

The structural conditions of the premises, other than some of the registered ones, are generally satisfactory. All the premises have a water supply available, although in some cases it is not directly laid on to the premises, while drainage facilities have been adequate.

A few of the Slaughter-houses were obviously not originally intended for this purpose and the position of some in relation to streets and other buildings leaves much to be desired, but they are on the whole kept in a reasonable condition, and are therefore not productive of any nuisance.

During the year, 260 visits were made for the purpose of examining carcasses.

## Meat and other Foods.

The extent of disease in animals slaughtered locally is shown in the table below, together with details of carcasses examined :

| Carcases | No. inspected   |
|----------|-----------------|
| Bovines  | ... 121         |
| Pigs     | ... 375         |
| Sheep    | ... 226         |
| Calves   | ... 13          |
|          | <hr/> 735 <hr/> |

The following carcasses, organs, etc. were condemned as being unfit for the food of man and in every case the meat was voluntarily surrendered, and with the exception of Bovine carcasses, was burnt by the Council's employees.

|          |                           |                   |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Bovines. | Tuberculosis              | 3 Forequarters    |
|          |                           | 6 Heads           |
|          |                           | 2 Livers          |
|          |                           | 22 Sets of Lungs. |
|          |                           | 3 Mesenteries     |
|          | Generalised Tuberculosis  | 2 Carcasses       |
|          | Cirrhosis                 | 7 Livers          |
|          | Distomatosis              | 6 Livers          |
|          |                           | 1 Set of Lungs    |
|          | Echinococcus Veterinorium | 1 Liver           |
|          | Cavernous Angioma         | 1 Liver           |
|          | Tumour                    | 1 Liver           |

|        |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pigs.  | Tuberculosis                   | 1 Forequarter<br>24 Heads<br>4 Sets of Lungs<br>10 Mesenteries<br>3 Offals<br>4 Carcases<br>1 Set of Lungs<br>4 Sets of Lungs<br>1 Heart<br>1 Viscera<br>1 Liver<br>1 Liver<br>3 Livers<br>1 Head<br>3 Sets of Lungs |
|        | Generalised Tuberculosis       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Pleurisy                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Pneumonia                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Pericarditis                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Degenerated Echinococcus Cysts |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Necrosis                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Cirrhosis                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Growth                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Congestion                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sheep. | Strongylus Rufescens           | 4 Sets of Lungs                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|        | Cysticercus Tenuicollis        | 2 Livers<br>1 Set of Lungs                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|        | Distomatosis                   | 2 Livers                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|        | Nephritis                      | 1 Kidney                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|        | Echinococcus Veterinorium      | 2 Livers                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|        | Yellow Atrophy                 | 1 Liver                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|        | Inflammatory Condition         | 1 viscera                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Condemned bovine carcasses were allowed to be sold to suitable Firms for the manufacture of by-products, etc. This practice, however, was considered to be unsatisfactory for obvious reasons, and the Council have now made arrangements with the Bath City Council for such carcasses to be burnt at their Destructor Works. The fee charged by that Authority for such service is ten shillings per carcase.

## Summary of Work carried out during the year 1938.

|                                                |     |     |      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Visits to Houses in connection with Systematic |     |     |      |
| Housing Inspections                            | ... | ... | 857  |
| Houses Repaired                                | ... | ... | 100  |
| Council House Inspections                      | ... | ... | 394  |
| New Building Inspections                       | ... | ... | 647  |
| Houses connected with water mains of Council   |     |     | 72   |
| Water Samples secured for analyses             |     | ... | 51   |
| Waterworks, Main Extension etc., Inspections   | ... |     | 294  |
| Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets         |     | ... | 20   |
| Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets        |     | ... | —    |
| Earth Closets to Water Closets                 | ... | ... | 1    |
| New Pail Closets                               | ... | ... | 9    |
| New Water Closets                              | ... | ... | 72   |
| New Drainage systems provided to old premises  |     |     | 90   |
| Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions   |     |     |      |
| and drainage systems                           | ... | ... | 205  |
| Inspection of Refuse Tips                      | ... | ... | 67   |
| Inspection of Farms and Dairies                |     | ... | 258  |
| Slaughter-house Inspections                    | ... | ... | 260  |
| Overcrowding complaints dealt with             | ... | ... | 203  |
| Factory and Workshops Inspections              | ... | ... | 14   |
| Notices, Letters, etc., sent out               | ... | ... | 3000 |
| Preliminary Notices served                     | ... | ... | 169  |
| Statutory Notices served                       | ... | ... | 59   |
| Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases   |     | ... | 38   |
| Nuisances' Inspections                         | ... | ... | 287  |
| Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926      |     | ... | 33   |

I am,

Your obedient servant,

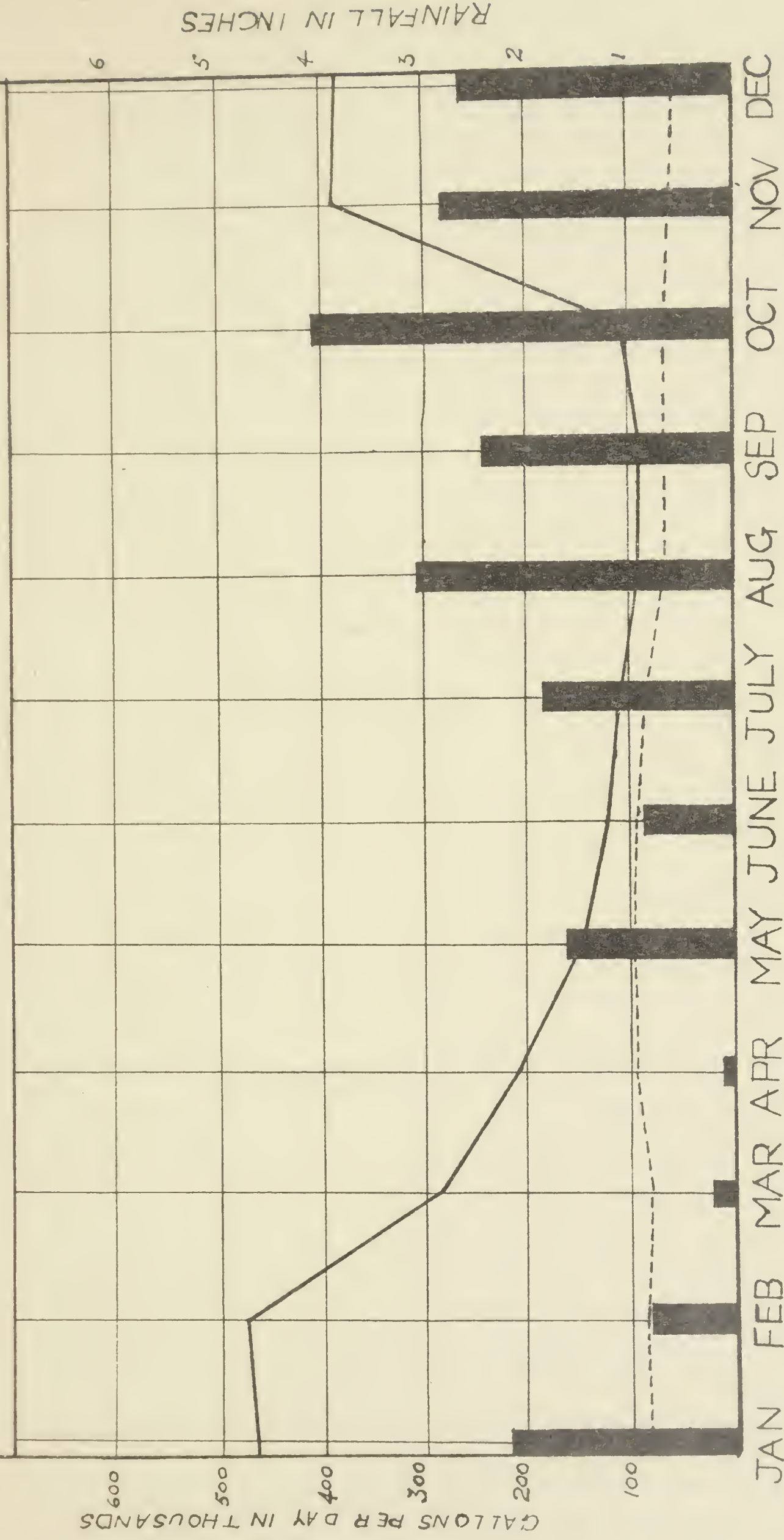
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.





TOTAL MONTHLY RAINFALL IN THE DISTRICT AND DOTTED  
 CURVE SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY CONSUMPTION  
 EACH MONTH.



1938

RAINFALL GAUGINGS WERE KINDLY  
 SUPPLIED BY COL M. EARLE





